

PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(Large Entity)

Docket No.
8200.163

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111 and 37 C.F.R. 1.53 is the patent application of:

JONES, J. et al.

jc639 U.S. PTO

For: VEHICLE AXLE BEAM AND BRAKE ASSEMBLY

12/23/99

jc598 U.S. PTO
09/471153
12/23/99

Enclosed are:

Certificate of Mailing with Express Mail Mailing Label No.
 4 sheets of drawings.
 A certified copy of a application.
 Declaration Signed. Unsigned.
 Power of Attorney
 Information Disclosure Statement
 Preliminary Amendment
 Other: Assignment and Cover

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	8	- 20 =	0	x \$22.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	2	- 3 =	0	x \$82.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable)					\$0.00
				BASIC FEE	\$760.00
				TOTAL FILING FEE	\$760.00

A check in the amount of \$800.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
 The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 50-0548 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
 Charge the amount of as filing fee.
 Credit any overpayment.
 Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
 Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated: December 23, 1999


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CC:

VEHICLE AXLE BEAM AND BRAKE ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a drum brake arrangement for motor vehicles in general, and particularly to a novel arrangement of various components of a pneumatically actuated 10 drum brake assembly for rear axles of heavy duty trucks.

2. Description of the Prior Art

15 Pneumatically actuated drum brakes are well known in the prior art. Typically, a pneumatically actuated drum brake assembly includes a brake spider bolted to a flange on an axle beam. The brake spider is adapted to support a pair of brake shoes. A brake actuator shaft provided with an S-cam at one 20 end and a pneumatic actuator at the other end, is normally supported on the axle beam by at least one bracket welded to the axle beam. This conventional design renders current pneumatically actuated drum brake assemblies quite complex in manufacturing, cumbersome, expensive and require a great deal 25 of changes in the current production in order to accommodate numerous variations of axle beams and suspension arrangements.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an improved pneumatically actuated drum brake assembly, especially for rear axles of heavy duty trucks. The brake assembly of the present invention comprises a brake spider secured to an axle beam preferably by welding to support all other components of the brake assembly. The brake spider includes a pivoting end support plate having one or more anchor pin bores, and an actuator support plate disposed substantially opposite to the pivoting end support plate. A pair of brake shoes is pivotally supported by anchor pin mounted within the anchor pin bore in the pivoting end support plate and is actuated by an S-cam fixed to a second end of a brake actuating shaft. The actuating shaft in turn is actuated by a pneumatic brake actuator. The present invention employs a mounting assembly that secures the pneumatic brake actuator and brake actuating shaft with the S-cam directly to the brake spider that allows to assemble the brake assembly as a module and use the same brake assembly for numerous variations of axle beams and suspension arrangements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a study of the following specification when 5 viewed in light of the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of the brake assembly in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the brake spider;

Fig. 3 is a partially sectioned front view of the brake 10 assembly;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the brake assembly in accordance with the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Figs. 1 of the drawings depicts a novel arrangement of a pneumatically actuated drum brake assembly of the present invention adapted to be utilized for heavy duty trucks.

20 Reference numeral 2 defines an axle beam including a spindle 3 rotatably supporting a wheel (not shown). A brake spider 5 is non-removably secured to the axle beam 2, preferably by

welding. The welding joint between the axle beam 2 and the brake spider 5 is indicated generally by reference numeral 4. The brake spider, illustrated in Fig. 2, comprises a pivoting end support plate 6 and an actuator support plate 7 extending 5 generally opposite to the pivoting end support plate 6, and defines a central aperture 8 through which the axle beam 2 is positioned.

The brake assembly includes a brake drum 20 mounted to a wheel hub (not shown) which is rotatably mounted on the 10 spindle 3. The brake assembly utilizes a pair of brake shoes 22 each including a pair of axially spaced webs 23.

In order to selectively move the brake shoes 22 outwardly to create frictional engagement with the interior of the brake drum 20, a rotary actuator 14 is provided. The rotary actuator 15 14 includes a brake actuating shaft 16 having a first end 17 and a second end 18, and an S-cam 15 rigidly secured to the second end 18 of the actuating shaft 16 by any appropriate means well known in the brake art, such as spline connection. The second end 18 of the actuator shaft 16 extends through a 20 support opening 10 in the actuator support plate 7 of the brake spider 5. The support opening 10 may be provided with any form of bushing or bearing well known in the prior art to

allow free rotation of the actuator shaft 16.

The rotary actuator 14 is actuated by a pneumatic actuator including a pneumatic actuator cylinder 30 provided with an actuator rod 32 extending therefrom. A distal end of 5 the actuator rod 32 is pivotally connected to one end of a brake actuating lever 34. The other end of the brake actuating lever 34 is fixedly secured to the first end of the actuator shaft 16 by any appropriate means well known in the brake art.

The actuator shaft 16 is actuated by the pneumatic 10 actuator cylinder 30 to cause the cam 15 to rotate outwardly displacing the brake shoes 22 for braking engagement with the interior surface of the drum 20. Each of the brake shoes 22 commonly includes a cam follower 26 at an end 25 thereof adjacent to the cam 15 to allow smooth application of the 15 force generated by the rotation of the cam 15 to each brake shoe 22.

An end 24 of the brake shoe 22, as illustrated in Fig. 3, is designed to be supported for pivotal movement in response to the outward movement of the end 25 of the brake shoe 22 as 20 it is selectively moved by the cam 15. The end 24 of each shoe 22 is provided with an open recess 27 in the shoe web 23 designed to receive a pivot pin 28.

It should be noted that the brake spider 5 of the present invention utilizes a single centrally located pivot pin 28 to support both brake shoes, as disclosed hereinabove. However, there are some drum brake configurations in the prior art that 5 employ a pair of pivot pins for supporting one end of each brake shoe. It will be clear to those skilled in the art that the present invention could readily be employed for such brake assemblies. Although the specific forces acting on each plate of the brake spider might be different, there is sufficient 10 information provided hereinabove to enable one with ordinary skills in the art to design such a brake spider without departing from the scope of the invention.

As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4, the present invention includes a mounting assembly that secures the pneumatic brake 15 actuator cylinder 30 and rotary actuator 14 directly to the brake spider 5. The mounting assembly includes a mounting sleeve 40 for positioning and rotationally supporting the actuating shaft 16 therewithin. The mounting sleeve 40 may be of any length depending on the vehicle and applicable 20 clearance space. The mounting sleeve is provided with a first mounting bracket 42 at one end, and a second mounting bracket 44 at the other end. The first and second mounting brackets 42

and 44 respectively, are secured to the mounting sleeve by any appropriate means, preferably by welding. The first mounting bracket 42 is used to secure the pneumatic actuator cylinder 30. In turn, the second mounting bracket 44 is fastened to the 5 brake spider 5 by bolts 46 through apertures 11 in the actuator support plate 7 of the brake spider 5. Thus, a self-contained brake assembly is provided that is easy to assemble and allows for numerous variations of axle beams and suspension arrangements.

10 It is to be understood that while the brake assembly disclosed herein is disclosed in the context of a pneumatic actuator, other actuating mechanisms well known in the prior art, such as hydraulic, mechanical, electrical, etc., may be employed.

15 The foregoing description of the preferred embodiment of the present invention has been presented for the purpose of illustration in accordance with the provisions of the Patent Statutes. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. Obvious 20 modifications or variations are possible in light of the above teachings. The embodiment disclosed hereinabove was chosen in order to best illustrate the principles of the present

invention and its practical application to thereby enable those of ordinary skill in the art to best utilize the invention in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use
5 contemplated, as long as the principles described herein are followed. Thus, changes can be made in the above-described invention without departing from the intent and scope thereof. It is also intended that the scope of the present invention be defined by the claims appended thereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle axle beam and drum brake assembly,
comprising:

5 a pneumatic brake actuator cylinder provided with an
actuator rod extending therefrom;

a brake actuating shaft having a first end and a second
end;

10 a brake actuating lever interconnecting said actuator rod
and said first end of said brake actuating shaft;

an S-cam secured to said second end of said brake
actuating shaft;

15 a brake spider non-removably secured to said axle beam
and adapted to support a brake assembly, said brake spider
including a pivoting end support plate and an actuator support
plate provided with an opening for receiving said brake
actuating shaft therethrough;

20 a mounting sleeve having a first end and a second end,
said first end of said mounting sleeve is secured to said
pneumatic brake actuator cylinder and said second end of said
mounting sleeve is secured to said actuator support plate of
said brake spider, said brake actuating shaft rotationally

supported and positioned within said mounting sleeve;

5 a pair of brake shoes pivotally supported on said pivoting end support plate of said brake spider, said brake shoes adapted to frictionally engage a bearing surface of a
5 brake drum; and

a cam follower secured on each of said shoes and adapted to interfit with an outer surface of said S-cam,

wherein when said actuator rod is extended, said brake actuating shaft and said S-cam rotate about the longitudinal
10 axis such that said brake shoes are brought into frictional engagement with said bearing surface.

2. The vehicle axle beam and drum brake assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said brake spider is welded to
15 said axle beam.

3. The vehicle axle beam and drum brake assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said brake spider is an integral part of an integrated one-piece axle spindle and brake spider
20 assembly fixedly secured to said axle beam.

4. The vehicle axle beam and drum brake assembly as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a first mounting bracket attached to said first end of said mounting sleeve; and

5 a second mounting bracket attached to said second end of said mounting sleeve.

5. The vehicle axle beam and drum brake assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein said first mounting bracket is 10 fastened to said pneumatic brake actuator cylinder.

6. The vehicle axle beam and drum brake assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein said second mounting bracket is fastened to said actuator support plate of said brake spider.

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7. The vehicle axle beam and drum brake assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said actuator support plate of said brake spider, is axially offset from said pivoting end support plate.

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8. A vehicle axle beam and drum brake assembly, comprising:

a pneumatic brake actuator cylinder provided with an actuator rod extending therefrom;

a brake actuating shaft having a first end and a second end;

5 a brake actuating lever interconnecting said actuator rod and said first end of said brake actuating shaft;

an S-cam secured to said second end of said brake actuating shaft;

10 a brake spider welded to said axle beam and adapted to support a brake assembly, said brake spider including a pivoting end support plate and an actuator support plate provided with an opening for receiving said brake actuating shaft therethrough, said actuator support plate being axially offset from said pivoting end support plate;

15 a mounting sleeve having a first end and a second end, said first end of said mounting sleeve is secured to said pneumatic brake actuator cylinder and said second end of said mounting sleeve is secured to said actuator support plate of said brake spider, said brake actuating shaft rotationally supported and positioned within said mounting sleeve;

a first mounting bracket attached to said first end of said mounting sleeve, said first mounting bracket is fastened

to said pneumatic brake actuator cylinder;

a second mounting bracket attached to said second end of said mounting sleeve, said second mounting bracket is fastened to said actuator support plate of said brake spider;

5 a pair of brake shoes pivotally supported on said pivoting end support plate of said brake spider, said brake shoes adapted to frictionally engage a bearing surface of a brake drum; and

a cam follower secured on each of said shoes and adapted
10 to interfit with an outer surface of said S-cam,

wherein when said actuator rod is extended, said brake actuating shaft and said S-cam rotate about the longitudinal axis such that said brake shoes are brought into frictional engagement with said bearing surface.

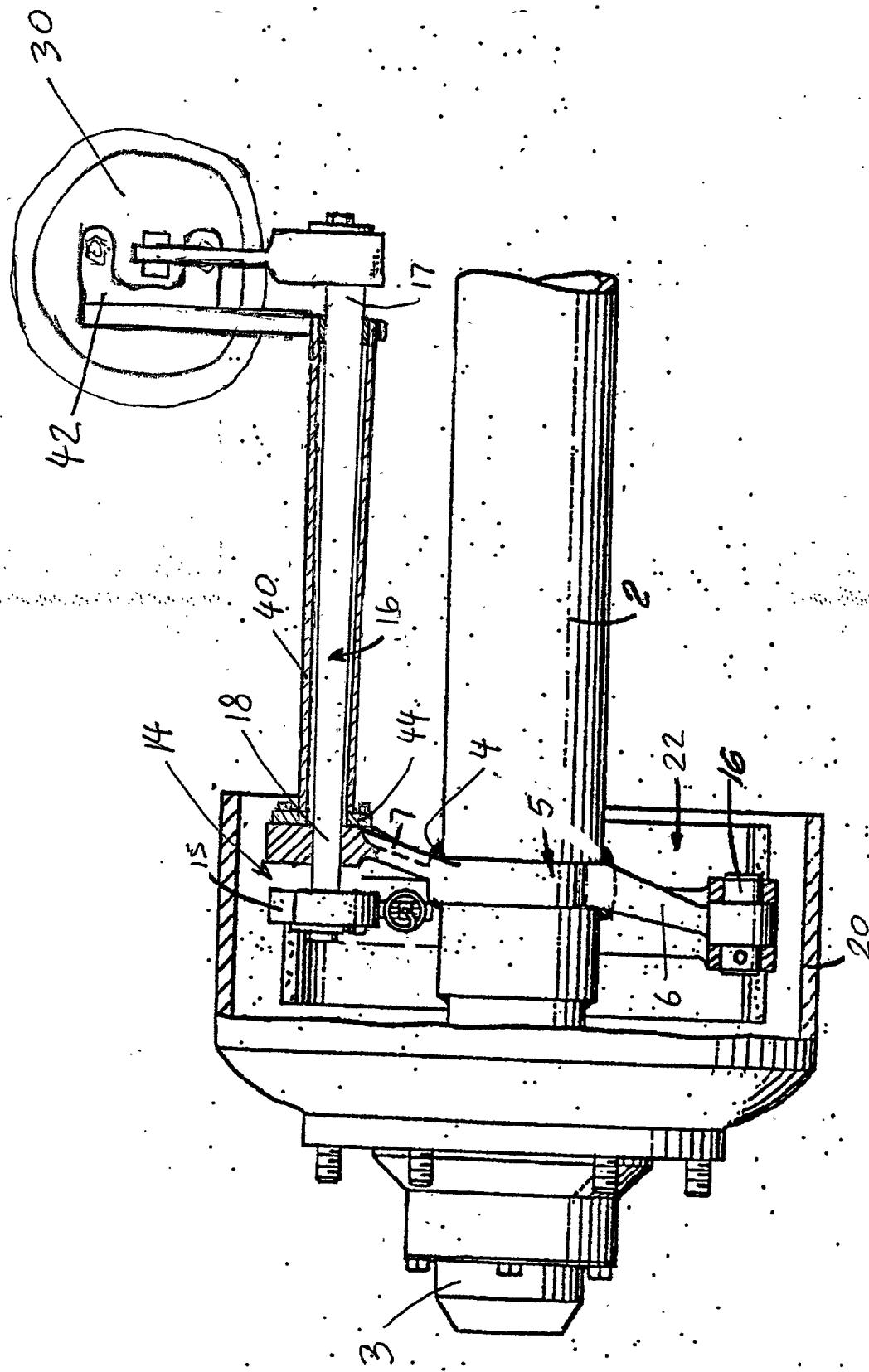
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ABSTRACT

An improved axle beam and self-contained drum brake assembly, particularly for heavy duty trucks, is disclosed.

- 5 The assembly includes a brake spider and actuating members mounted thereto via a mounting assembly comprising a mounting sleeve attached to the brake spider by means of a second mounting bracket, and a first mounting bracket securing a pneumatic brake actuator cylinder to the mounting sleeve. A
- 10 brake actuating camshaft is positioned and rotationally supported therewithin. The disclosed brake assembly allows for numerous variations of axle beam and suspension arrangements.

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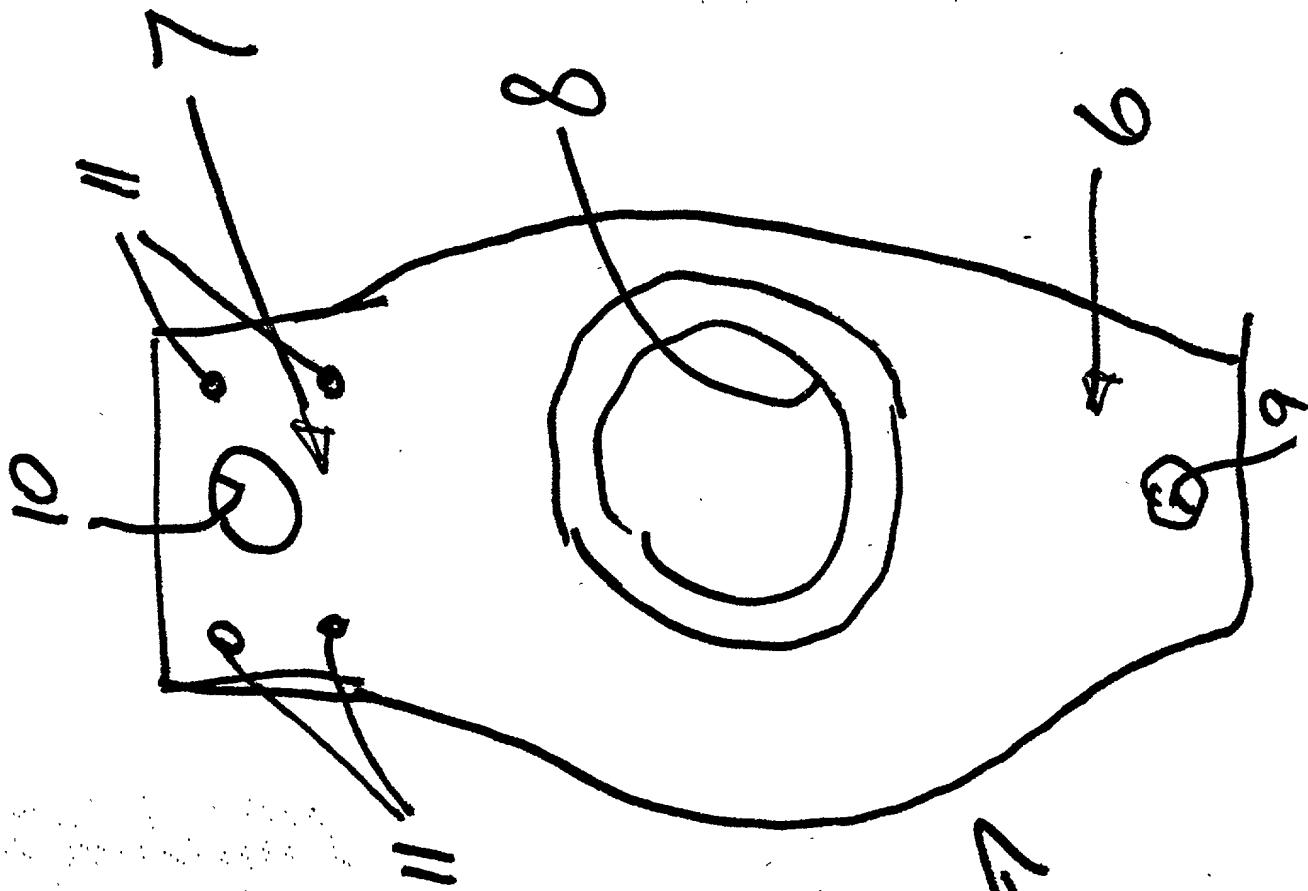
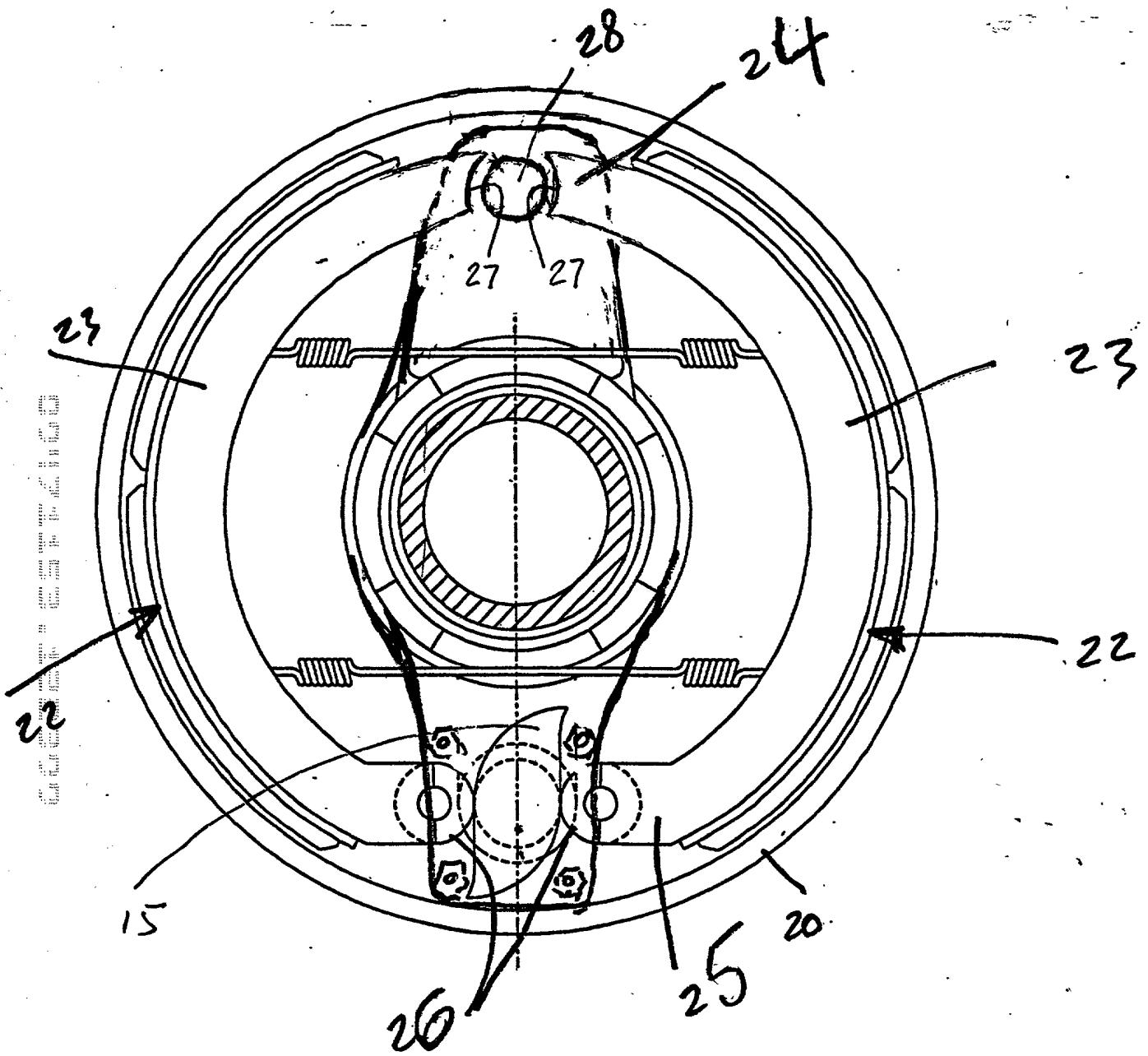
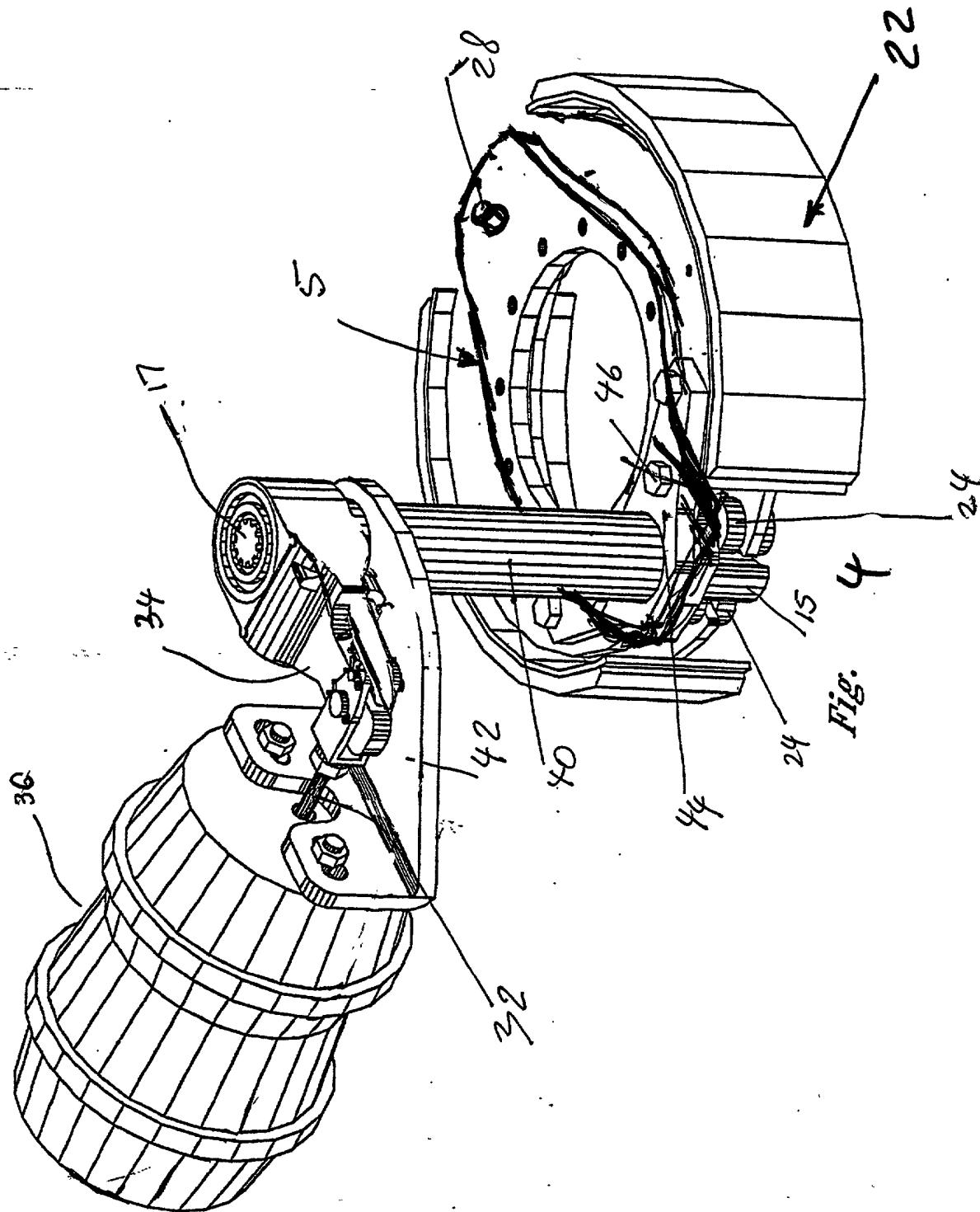


Fig. 2

Fig. 3





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Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

VEHICLE AXLE BEAM AND BRAKE ASSEMBLY

the specification of which

(check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International

Application Number _____

and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

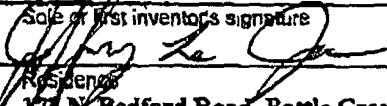
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

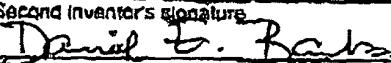
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